

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 IO-10 /080 W

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R 191527Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 758

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, EK, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIA ABROGATES CONTRACT LABOR AGREEMENT WITH
EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: LAGOS 4900 JUN 4, 1974

1. ANOTHER HASSLE OVER TREATMENT NIGERIAN CONTRACT WORKERS
IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA HAS APPARENTLY RESULTED IN FMG'S ABROGATION
1971 AGREEMENT UNDER TERMS OF WHICH NIGERIANS WERE PERMITTED
PERFORM CONTRACT LABOR ON FERNANDO PO. THE PERENNIAL CHARGES
OF SLAVE LABOR, PHYSICAL MALTREATMENT, BROKEN CONTRACTS, FAILURE
TO RECEIVE PAY, ETC. HAVE BEEN REPEATED ONCE MORE. PRESS,
PARTICULARLY SOUTH EASTERN STATE'S CHRONICLE, HAS REPORTED STORY
AS IT HAS DEVELOPED, THIS WEEK FEATURING INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS
RETURNING NIGERIAN WHO BEING AIRLIFTED OUT OF MALABO TO CALABAR.
NIGERIA'S LARGEST PAPER, THE "DAILY TIMES", EDITORIALY CONDEMNED
NIGERIAN/EQUATORIAL GUINEAN AGREEMENT AND CALLED ON FMG CANCEL
THE TREATY, ASSERTING THAT RATIONALE GIVEN FOR ENTERING
INTO 1971 AGREEMENT (HELPING AFRICAN BROTHERS) NO LONGER
VALID IN VIEW MISTREATMENT NIGERIAN WORKERS.

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2. OFFICIAL AT FEDERAL MINISTRY LABOR CONFIRMED AUGUST 19
THAT AIRLIFT IS UNDERWAY TO REPATRIATE ALL RPT ALL NIGERIAN
WORKERS FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA. SAME OFFICIAL SAID FMG WOULD
NO RPT NO LONGER PERMIT NIGERIANS PERFORM CONTRACT LABOR
FERNANDO PO AND THAT THE 1971 AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ABROGATED
BY FMG.

COMMENT: TREATMENT OF NIGERIAN WORKERS ON FERNANDO PO IS
PERENNIAL PROBLEM AND SUBJECT SENSATIONALISM IN PRESS.
ON THIS OCCASION, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS AS THOUGH FMG OFFICIALS
HAVE HAD ENOUGH AND HAVE DECREED AN END CONTRACT LABOR IN
EQUATORIAL GUINEA. JUST WHEN ABROGATION TOOK PLACE NOT
COMPLETELY CLEAR, BUT TODAY'S RETIREMENT
NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN MALABO, DRIGADIER BASSEY, WOULD APPEAR
NOT UNRELATED TO DEVELOPMENTS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA,
ALTHOUGH HIS RETIREMENT ONLY ONE OF NINE WHICH WERE
REPORTED (SEPTTEL).
CROSBY

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